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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,641	07/14/2003	Steven Robert Hetzler	ARC9-2003-0014-US1	9657
55508	7590	12/03/2007		
JOSEPH P. CURTIN, L.L.C. 1469 N.W. MORGAN LANE PORTLAND, OR 97229-5291			EXAMINER LAMARRE, GUY J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2112	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/03/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,641

Applicant(s)

HETZLER ET AL.

Examiner

Guy J. Lamarre

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-144 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-144 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restriction

* This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I: **Independent Claim(s) 1, 46, 73** and intervening claims, drawn to method for increasing an error tolerance of an array of m storage units, the method comprising steps of: storing k stripes across the array of m storage units, each stripe having a plurality of elements, each stripe forming an erasure or error correcting code having a minimum Hamming distance d , and each respective element of a stripe being stored on a different storage unit; selecting an element in a donor stripe when a difference between a minimum distance of the donor stripe and a minimum distance of a recipient stripe is greater or equal to 2, the selected element being stored on a storage unit **having no elements of the recipient stripe**; and **rebuilding a lost element of the recipient stripe on the selected element**.

Species II: **Independent Claims 24, 96** and intervening claims, drawn to method of increasing the failure tolerance of an array of m storage units that is vulnerable to selected patterns of failures, comprising steps of: storing k stripes across the array of m storage units, each stripe having a plurality of elements, each stripe forming an erasure or **error correcting code having a minimum Hamming distance d** , and each respective element of a stripe being stored on a different storage unit; subsequent to an element failure, selecting a recipient element; selecting an element in a donor stripe such that a failure tolerance of the array is increased following a rebuild operation; and **rebuilding a lost element of the recipient stripe on the selected element of the donor stripe**.

Species III: **Independent Claims 118** and intervening claims, drawn to data storage system, comprising: a plurality of arrays of storage units, each array having m storage units, k stripes being stored across each respective array of m storage units, each stripe having a plurality of elements, each stripe forming an error or erasure **correcting code having a minimum Hamming distance $d=n+1$** , and each respective element of a stripe being stored on a different storage unit in the array; and a system array controller selecting an element in a donor stripe when a difference between a minimum distance of the donor stripe and a minimum distance of a recipient stripe is greater or equal to 2, the selected element being stored on a storage unit having no elements of the recipient stripe, the system array controller rebuilding a lost element of the recipient stripe on the selected element.

* Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

* Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

* Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

* Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of other invention.

* Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

* Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

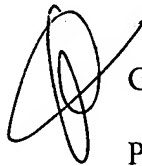
or faxed to: (571) 273-8300 for all formal communications.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guy J. Lamarre, P.E., whose telephone number is (571) 272-3826. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis-Jacques, can be reached at (571) 272-6962.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3609.

Information regarding the status of an application may also be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a vertical line and a diagonal stroke.

Guy J. Lamarre, P.E.

Primary Examiner
